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than words; the constitutional iconoclasts against the champions of American sovereignty; the Powers of Darkness against the Powers of Light."

T. B. P.

THE HISTORY OF MEDIÆVAL EUROPE. By Lynn Thorndike, Ph. D., Associate Professor of History, Western Reserve University. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co. 1917. Pp. xx, 682.

This is one of the best published text-books we have seen, and it is worthy of the Boston house. Its typography, print, paper, arrangement, etc., are a delight to the eye and a comfort to the mind. The maps and plans, of which there are twenty-four, are clear and helpful, not overcrowded with details, nor confined to geographical matter proper. Some of them are of special interest, *e. g.*, Physical and Racial Europe, The Expansion of the Northmen, Feudal France, Towns and Trades of France and Flanders, and the last one, Review of Mediæval Civilization.

The author writes in an easy, entertaining style, and the book is full of valuable practical information on most of the important subjects and individuals of the period. Much attention is devoted to economic and social conditions, as well as to art, literature, science and education.

Its method and arrangement fit it admirably for a text-book or for private study and reading. Footnotes are discarded and a good running analysis is given in the page margins. At the end of each chapter, special topics and questions are suggested with definite references to further reading in standard and easily accessible books of recent date, with brief notices of important sources and their scope and value. After a short list of general works as guides in historical reading, there follows a full and convenient Chronological Table, and a chapter on the Study of History, which is full of practical and stimulating advice. There is added, at the end, a full index of about forty pages, but if it were even shorter and yet gave some indication of the nature of the references it would be of much greater value.

In the introductory chapter on the Study of History the author gives a clear and convincing statement of the reasons why the Middle Ages deserve our attention, not merely because they pre-

pared for and contributed to our modern civilization, but also because of the institutions and ideas which are now obsolete, the study of which helps to enlarge our knowledge and sympathies. In his advice for the reading and study of historical books, as indeed of any books, he omits one very important admonition—read the Preface. A noted teacher used to say that no one had any right to read a book until he had read the Preface, and this is very applicable to the book here being considered.

In this Preface it is stated that “the general aim of the volume is to treat Mediæval Europe as a whole, and to hang the story upon a single thread.” What this thread is, however, we are unable to discover; it must be a very fine thread. The author refuses to be “misled by Bryce’s brilliant essay, into making the Holy Roman Empire the central thread”, for “more important were the feudal state and the self-centered town, the diversity and vigor of local law and custom.” This is quite true, and he almost hits on the true thread when he continues: “But it would be difficult to overestimate the importance of the pope and the clergy as unifying forces in mediæval civilization.” Why not *the* unifying force? His failure to realize the real bearing of what he has just said, leads to the lame conclusion: “Consequently several chapters are devoted to the Christian Church and some mention of it has to be made in every chapter.” This betrays the weakness of the whole book. It has no unifying thread, for the author has dropped the only one there is—the Papal Church—just when he had his hands upon it.

The book is picturesque, interesting, and full of striking information and telling allusions, but it lacks continuity and purpose. Each chapter is a scholarly essay, complete in itself, but this is not history. History is like a moving picture, not a series of photographs separately mounted and framed. The book is a collection of illustrations of historic study, rather than history. There is a lack of systematic treatment and of unity of purpose. Thus the effect is somewhat confusing, owing to the lack of connections and of interpretation. It is a series of essays or short papers on the various subjects. Most of them are exceedingly well done.

What he says in a note at the end of his chapter on The Barbarian Invasions seems true of his attitude throughout the whole book—"The period is one of confusion, without commanding central figures, and I have not wished to make it seem too orderly and simple by omitting a good deal and over-emphasizing a few points." He certainly has not made it too orderly; but there are other ways of finding order in history than by omissions and over-emphasis. Without a connecting thread or motive, one who tries to write history is always running off at a tangent, breaking the continuity and confusing the order.

There are few historical misstatements, and those few due to inadequacy rather than to error. One of the most significant instances is the failure to note the change in Scholasticism from Realism to Nominalism, and its influence through the philosophy of Bacon, Occam and Marsilius of Padua upon the political, social and economic relations as the basis of that individualism the development of which, in gild and town and nation, was one of the most striking features of the later Middle Ages, and one which had a direct relation to modern history. Realism stood for institutions and the solidarity of the race, and was peculiarly the philosophical basis of the Middle Ages, while Nominalism stood for the importance of the individual; and the change from the earlier form of Scholasticism to the later was an indication or forerunner of the change that was taking place in men's minds and activities.

A clearer comprehension of the ecclesiastical, as well as of the intellectual, side of history, would have made possible a more orderly treatment and more logical arrangement of the whole period, which is admittedly full of confused, complex and antagonistic movements and forces.

On the subject of Gilds, Dr. Gross, whose work is still the highest authority, has said that "no theory on this subject can be satisfactory which wholly ignores the influence of the Christian Church. Imbued with the idea of the brotherhood of man, the Church naturally fostered the early growth of gilds." We find no trace of this in our author's treatment, nor any reference to Dr. Gross's monumental work on this great subject.

Our author fails to note the use of legates, which was greatly systematized by Hildebrand and by his successors as the most efficient means of bringing all Europe under papal control.

We shall refer to only one other instance of misunderstanding, but it is a very significant one. Ten lines are given to the Pseudo-Isidorian Decretals, and it is difficult to see how more information, accurate as well as important, could be packed in, but the main feature of the Decretals is missed. They proclaimed and established the absolute distinction between clergy and laity, which was not only the foundation of the Hildebrandine policy and the basis of papal autocracy, but the keynote of the Middle Ages and the explanation of its whole history. C. L. W.

DR. ANDREW TURNBULL AND THE NEW SMYRNA COLONY OF FLORIDA.
By Carita Doggett, A.M. Jacksonville, Florida: The Drew Press.

As Miss Doggett says in her preface to this interesting little contribution to the early history of Florida, "Every old inhabitant of Florida knows of Andrew Turnbull." Many visitors to the East Coast have read Archibald Clavering Gunter's *Susan Turnbull* and have taken pictures of the Old Sugar Mill and of "Turnbull's Castle". Gunter's Turnbull was a sort of ogre, and his account of the "Minorcan Colony" was wholly imaginary.

It has been Miss Doggett's task to present to her readers a different Turnbull, who in the light of the historical facts about him which she has so painstakingly uncovered, appears as one of those great spirits who dared much to open America to the oppressed people of many lands. To accomplish this task, the author has made use of records in the British Colonial Office which have not hitherto been drawn upon for this purpose. She has in no case relied upon statements from secondary sources, but has restricted herself to unimpeachable documentary evidence. She presents in compact form and in winning style an account of Dr. Turnbull's attempt to make actually English that magnificent domain in Florida which the Spaniards in 1763 had ceded for captured Havana. Miss Doggett's work is a really valuable contribution to the early history of Florida.